

Final Abstract Number: 42.016
 Session: HIV/AIDS and Other Retroviruses
 Date: Thursday, April 3, 2014
 Time: 12:45–14:15
 Room: Ballroom

Opportunistic diseases among HIV-infected patients: Korea HIV/AIDS Cohort study, 2006–2013

M.W. Kang^{1,*}, Y.J. Kim¹, S.I. Kim¹, K. Korean²

¹ The catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea, Republic of

² Korean HIV/AIDS cohort group, Seoul, Korea, Republic of

Background: The frequencies of opportunistic diseases (ODs) may vary in different countries since the genetic, environmental, and social background.

Methods & Materials: The Korean HIV/AIDS cohort study was initiated in 2006 to promote research on HIV infection in Korea, and to provide a logistical network to support multicenter projects on epidemiological, clinical and laboratory aspects of HIV infection in Korea. A total of 1,096 HIV-infected patients from 19 hospitals were included in this cohort study.

Results: Demographic data showed median age of 46 years old, and 92.7% of male gender. The most frequent root of transmission was sexual contact (n=953, 86.9%), followed by transfusion or blood product (n=25, 2.3%), IV drug injection (n=4, 0.4%) and unknown origin (n=114, 10.4%). Candidiasis was the most prevalent opportunistic infection (n=176, 16.1%), followed by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection (n=136, 12.4%), *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (n=121, 11.0%), CMV disease (n=52, 4.7%) and herpes zoster (n=44, 4.01%). Our data showed very low prevalence of Kaposi's sarcoma (n=8, 0.7%) and toxoplasmosis (n=4, 0.4%) comparing other cohort. When diagnosed with HIV, 13.8% of patients (n=151) had AIDS-indicator conditions. The most common AIDS-indicator condition was *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (n=91, 60.3%) followed by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (n=50, 33.1%) and esophageal candidiasis (n=38, 25.2%). During the follow-up period, 26 patients (2.4%) were dead. ODs related mortality was 0.7% (n=8); pneumonia of unknown origin (n=4), *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (n=2), *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (n=2) and meningitis (n=1).

Conclusion: The prevalence of ODs in Korean patients showed somewhat different from that of European, African, and American patients. Our data demonstrated tuberculosis was still one of the most important ODs in HIV-infected patients of Korea, and the prevalence of Kaposi's sarcoma and toxoplasmosis remained extremely low. ODs were not a major cause of mortality.

Acknowledgement

This study was supported by a grant for the Chronic Infectious Disease Cohort Study (Korea HIV/AIDS Cohort Study, 2013-E51006-00) from the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HIV/AIDS cohort group

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2014.03.688>



Final Abstract Number: 42.017
 Session: HIV/AIDS and Other Retroviruses
 Date: Thursday, April 3, 2014
 Time: 12:45–14:15
 Room: Ballroom

Social representations of AIDS: An analysis using the technique of free evocations

F.R.A. Rodrigues^{1,*}, P.V. Monteiro², M.L.D. Pereira²

¹ University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

² State University of Ceará, Fortaleza, Brazil

Background: AIDS has been studied from the theory of social representations because still wrapped in stigma. This study aimed to know the structure of social representations of young people about AIDS.

Methods & Materials: Qualitative and quantitative research, conducted with 178 young people between 15 and 24 years at a public school in Fortaleza - Ceará - Brazil. Data were collected by the technique of free evocations using questionnaires with inducers terms 'AIDS' and 'ME WITH AIDS'. Data were analyzed by structural approach to social representations with the EVOC 2000 software for construction of four houses frame. The study followed the ethical standards for research with human subjects and was approved by Research Ethics Committee from the Universidade Estadual do Ceará with opinion number 58028.

Results: From the inductive term 'AIDS', the core of representation was composed of the elements 'disease' and 'serious illness'. In the first periphery, 'pain', 'fear', 'suffering' and 'sadness', were cited 79 times, demonstrating the strong presence of negative feelings. The term 'incurable' was highlighted in the second periphery, because although it was not readily remembered, was part of the representation with a frequency of 9 and 3.0 rang. In contrast area, the elements 'danger', 'blood' and 'syringe' reinforced the significance of this disease and its transmission in the core meanings. The inductive term 'ME WITH AIDS' favored to make the disease personal and the production of different meanings in the representation. The core was formed by 'fear', 'cry' and 'shame'. The first periphery was composed of negative feelings arising from the disease as 'anxiety', 'despair', 'depression', which together comprised 58.0% of the elements. The term 'isolation' appeared in the second periphery as reaffirming the terms 'prejudice' and 'loneliness' present in the first periphery. The element of contrast 'irresponsibility' confirms and reinforces the idea of 'crying' and 'shame' contained in the central core.

Conclusion: Representations of aids were marked by negative factors relating to the seriousness of the disease and its physical and social consequences. From them it is possible to design interventions for disease prevention and positive coping in adverse health circumstances.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2014.03.689>

